Online Prescription Renewal for Glasses and Contact Lens Wearers:

THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE IN VISION CARE

ALL YOU NEED IS A COMPUTER AND SMARTPHONE

Innovative technology companies have worked with eye doctors to develop online vision tests that allow consumers to conveniently and inexpensively renew prescriptions for glasses and contact lenses from the comfort of home.

IT'S SAFE AND ACCURATE

Before an individual can use an online prescription renewal service, they must first receive their initial prescription by undergoing a rigorous in-person comprehensive exam by an eye care provider.

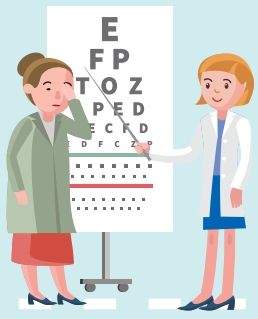
A CONVENIENT TOOL WHEN AN IN-PERSON EXAM IS NOT NEEDED

Online vision tests don't replace the need for periodic in-person comprehensive eye exams, but for most healthy adults, there is no need to return to an eye care provider's office every year simply to renew a prescription.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends healthy adults under the age of 40 receive an in-person eye exam every 5 to 10 years; among older patients, the recommended interval is 4 years or less.

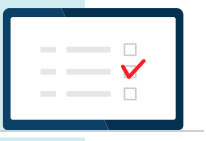
ONLY HEALTHY ADULTS WHO MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS CAN USE THE SERVICE

About 30% of users are screened out and referred to local eye doctors for in-person comprehensive exams.



HOW THE PROCESS WORKS:

Online prescription renewal services limit eligibility for taking the test to individuals who have completed a comprehensive in-person eye exam within the last 4 years. Before using the service, all users are asked to acknowledge that they understand they are taking a vision test and not a comprehensive eye exam.



Users answer questions about their state of residence, age, contact lens wearing history and lens comfort level. Only individuals age 18-55 are allowed to use the service. Individuals with a history of significant visual impairment are excluded.

Users are asked a series of medical questions to make sure the use of the technology is right for them. These questions screen out individuals with certain health risk factors, including chronic conditions.

Users are walked through an online vision test. Individuals showing a significant change from their last prescription or inconclusive results are further screened out.

If a user meets all of the eligibility requirements and passes all of the above screens, their vision test results are reviewed by an eye doctor licensed in the state in which the patient is located. The eye doctor uses the test results to evaluate the patient's visual acuity and diagnose refractive error.

When clinically appropriate, the eye doctor will then issue a renewed prescription, usually 24 hours after the vision test is completed.

Online prescription renewal represents the wave of the future in vision care. It is a safe, convenient and inexpensive tool that allows most healthy adults to renew their prescriptions remotely.

To learn more, visit
www.americansforvisioncareinnovation.org

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